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We may be permitted to state that the views of our contributors and correspondents do not necessarily reflect the policy of the Wednesday Review.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Madras Government gravely inform the public that no preferential treatment will be given to any representative of the Press in respect of papers placed on the Editors' Table, nor will they be given any information regarding appointments before they have been put up on the notice board. Whoever asked for it? We are sure that no pressman ever asks the Government to tell him what is withheld from his brother pressmen. Whatever his short-comings, the pressman will not ask for special privileges from the Government which may not be given to other pressmen. He is very reasonable there and we fear that G. O. No. 514 of the 8th September is quite gratuitous and superfluous. But no Government order can keep an enterprising journalist from scoring, may-be against them, at times. He cannot be ordered to limit his horizon to the notice board of the secretariat, though it may be the most important piece of furniture, as it has the privilege of first publishing to an expectant world the acts and intentions of the Government. The journalist with a nose for news may look to more animate sources of information than the notice board, without, of course, being guilty of trespassing into official sanctums. There are quite legitimate and unobjectionable ways of collecting news for a paper besides hanging about a notice board. They have been successfully adopted by eminent journalists and there is no reason why the Government here should look askance at them. Famous correspondents like Sir William Russell and G. A. Sala have been able to telegraph to their papers important news hours in advance of their formal official publication, much to the astonishment of the parties most concerned. But nobody thought of taking them to task for their enterprise or reading short lectures to them on the ethics of journalism. The correspondents need not resort to any underhand means of fishing out information from reluctant officials, but they can put two and two together and give the benefit of their calculations to their papers. The other day we had a pompous finding by the Publicity Board on the trivial circumstance that a Madras paper was able to publish a piece of official news in advance of its contemporaries and in advance of the Publicity Board, which is not saying much, and now we have a regular G. O. as a corollary. It is preeminently a case of much ado about nothing.

In our leading article we refer to the opinion of the Salder Commission that a new departure in education is needed. At the back of this sentiment which has been elaborated in a number

of bulky volumes is the suspicion that the system of education now obtaining has failed of its purpose and some reform is necessary to set matters right. This suspicion manifests itself periodically and the result is the appointment of commissions. While on the one hand the system is condemned as an exotic, there is on the other the fear that India has had too much of that exotic and all unrest, political and other, is directly traceable to it. These are extreme views to take. There is the outstanding fact that the exotic has found a congenial soil in India and we do not hestitate to say that the growth has been on the whole satisfactory. If there has been disappointment, it may be in regard to the details of the working of the system but not in regard to the conception of the system. The great statesmen who where responsible for it fully realised the intellectual and moral needs of the people entrusted to their keeping and devised a system of education with would satisfy those needs and mark the renaissance of India. Now and again, it upset the balance and induced undesirable accretions but it has a splendid record of achievement to its credit and it is ungrateful to cavil at it. The fear that we have had too much of western literary education is altogether unfouuded. In fact, we have not had enough of it yet, and the aim of the Government should be to widen its scope. Those who decry the system as denationalising the people are the enemies of the country, and are nnable to appreciate what western education has done for us. They would if they could substitute a *Swedesi* system. Only they do not know what it should be like. What are called national schools and colleges are so in name oniy and there is nothing to distinguish them from the common run of schools. For instance, the Hindu University which has cost several lakhs of rupees is not so different after all from the older Universities and the vast sums spent on it might have been better spent in strengthening educational institutions which are languishing for lack of support and in starting schools and colleges wherever they may be needed.

There are others again who are considerably exercised over the idea that all the present unrest is due to an overdose of western literary education, and their remedy for the unrest is to have as little to do as possible with University education and they will be satisfied with more primary schools. The unrest as it is called is not due to the present system of education. The most conspicuous products of the system are the least disaffected, and sedition and disloyalty are rife among the half-educated and the seditionist finds his quarry in immature minds. So that, we may dismiss the notion that the western system of education is the cause of all this unrest as unworthy of serious consideration. The discontent that has been caused by western learning is wholesome and is chiefly directed against those social disabilities and injustices which have kept us down as a nation for centuries. It is western education that has helped to open the eyes of those who have had the benefit of it to the disabilities which stand in the way of our progress. The school of thought which is associated with the name of Ranade is the best exponent of that discontent which aims at freeing Indian society of the accretions which have retarded the progress of the people. It sought to stir the minds of the educated classes to a due apprehension of the defects of the social organism such as caste, early marriages, enforced widowhood, general ignorance of the women, the exclusion of a large body of men and women as untouchables. Ranade and others who in the words of Lord Morley saw far and felt passionately, sought to promote a healthy social discontent, that the society might stand purged of its undesirable features. They did not believe in the possiblities of political progress with defective social foundations. It was why they did not fritter away their energies in constitution-making and sedition-mongering but directed them to social reformation. An impartial diagnosis of the unrest will disclose the fact that western education has not produced the bomb-thrower, but the social reformer who firmly believes that the cause of reform can be best promoted only under the aegis of Britain and her rule alone can afford those opportunities which are necessary to rid ourselves of the injustices which mar the social organism and arrest progress.

What to do with adolescent convicts is a problem of jail administration which has engaged for some years past the serious attention of the Jail authorities and the Government. Jail reform may easily degenerate into a fad and a deal of morbid sentimentalism may gather about it. Jail reformers may be one-idead men and like the class attempt to make jail life too smooth for the convicts. There may be differences of opinion on the treatment accorded to the prisoners, the work they are put to, and orher details but it is coming to be generally recognised that in the interest of society adolscent convicts and first offenders are best segregated from the habituals. The Inspector-General of Prisons, Madras, in his letter to the Government on the subject of the after-care of the adolescent convicts released from the Tanjore District Jail, says 'from my personal observation during the past three years, I am inclined to the belief that several boys have been too readily convicted and committed to jail for first offences who might have been let off wiih a warning or given some opportunity of redeeming his lost character without being sent to jail. One cannot be oblivious of the fact that once a boy finds his way into jail he is sure to find it great up-hill work to become a useful member of society.' We think there is a good deal of force in what the Inspector

General says and we fear the magistrates in dealing with youthful offenders do not use their discretion but go according to the letter of the injunctions of the Penal Code. The District Magistrates may be asked to circularise the Subordinate Magistrates on the matter and draw their attention from time to time to the desirability letting off adolescents with a warning for first offences. In specially bad cases, where a deterrent punishment seems to be necessary a warning will not do, but we quite believe, in the large majority of cases a warning will do. Major Cameron points out that a first offender always regards imprisonment with an amount of dread but it gradually vanishes as he gets accustomed to the routine of prison life. He is right in the view that a sentence hanging over the head of the boy which remains unexecuted so long as he behaves satisfactorily is therefore likely to be more deterrent than actual imprisonment.

Major Cameron suggests the appointment of suitable persons in each district to help magistrates with their opinions as to the best means of dealing with adolescents brought up for trial before criminal courts. He contends that in coming to a decision the individual and social circumstances of the offenders should be known to every magistrate. There is nothing impracticable in the suggestion and we do not know why the Madras Government are not in favour of it. We see their objection is not to the principle of the suggestion of the Inspector-General but they doubt whether advisers possessing the requisite qualifications would ordinarily be forthcoming. Of course, it is not easy to secure the services of suitable persons with necessary leisure. We suppose a little difficulty is felt in appointing non-official visitors to the jail, and it would appear that their visits are not as frequent and as regular as should be expected. We should like to see a trial is given to Major Cameron's suggestion to appoint non-afficial advisers to the magistrates in dealing with first offenders. The Government may try and see if suitable advisers are not available at least in some select districts. But the main problem is to afford opportunities to released convicts to make an honest start in life. In this matter, it is the non-official agency that should step in. In England and other countries, there are released prisoner's aid societies which are doing excellent work. They depend upon private benefactions, and we feel sure that Indian charity will not grudge help to released prisoners. It is possible to organise one for every district and a prisoner reclaimed and turned into an honest liver may not be an acquisition to the society but will be more serviceable to it than an unrepentant offender let loose on it.

The Indian Social Reformer writes.—The Committee appointed by Government to consider and report on the need for more colleges in this Presidency, recommended with a single dissentient, the establishment of a Women's College in Bombay city. The dissenting member was Principal Paranjpye who holds "that it is better that women students who go in for higher education should study in a larger institution where there will also be men students, though care must be taken to give them wider opportunities for a social collegiate life among themselves" by providing special hostels. He seems to think the establishment of a Women's College will encourage the growth of the purdah system in this Presidency, and that attending the same lectures as men students has an enlightening effect on women. A shrewd Indian lady graduate, not a Hindu, to whom we mentioned the matter aptly remarked that co-education has certainly its good points but what we have in Bombay and Poona could not be called co-education in any sense. The girl under-graduates attend the present Colleges by sufferance, they are practically excluded from the larger life of the College, they do not get sufficient facilities for recreation they sit by themselves and walk out of the class rooms after the lectures. Principal Paranjpye's arguments are flatly contradicted by the experience of Madras which is as little a purdah province as Bombay. Prior to the establishment of the two women's Colleges, one Government and the other a Christain Mission institution, the number of girls attending the Colleges in Madras could be counted on the fingers of the two institutions the number has jumped up to over two hundred and those who have had experience of the teaching in the Women's Colleges assure us that it is no whit inferior to that in men's. The learned Principal's dogmatism really rests on an unwarranted presumption regarding the unapproachable efficiency of men Professors, and a vague feeling that co-education is an advanced idea, and that co-education is for women to attend the same lectures as men. The Government of Bombay, we are sorry to say, has shelved the idea of a women's College on the ground that it is premature. Meanwhile our Christian Missionary friends have welcomed Mr. Paranjpye's interposition as "Providential" (see last week's *Dnyanodaya*) and have decided to start a Women's College and Hostel. We congratulate the Council of Missions on its wise and sane decision.

Mr Jacob Omninm writes in the *BookSeller*—Poor Dr. Bridges, our singularly modest and retiring Post Laureate has been made the butt of some unkind criticism, in the House of Commons and elewhere because he has refrained from perpetr
ing an official ode in celebration
Personally, I am inclined to think
Laureate felt that he had nothing
on the subject that was worth say
a wise discretion in remaining
recall some of the *vers d' occas*
ate predecessors in the office, we
that Dr. Bridges has resisted
give us a machinemade ode
turning out something. Eve
fine as some of his *aprop*
always succeed in getting
on such occasions, and
author of the "Ode o
Wellington" to Dr.

THE
Wednesday Review

WEDNESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER, 1919.

THE NEED FOR A NEW DEPARTURE IN EDUCATION.

AFTER an elaborate inquiry extending over many months, the Calcutta University Commission have come to the not unexpected conclusion that the reform of university and secondary education in Bengal is a matter which does not safely admit of delay. They emphasise the point that education from primary school to university should be answerable to modern standards of what is best. The Commission point out that the ideals of a new age call insistently for a new purpose in education. The sentiments are unexceptionable and the report of the Commission is an inspiring document impressing the reader with the sacredness and solemnity of the subject on which the Commission had to report. But it may be cynical to ask, *what good*. Commissions have been periodically appointed and their reports are monuments of wisdom. But the very fact that the appointment of such Commissions has been felt to be necessary from time to time would show that their recommendations are not generally heeded to and carried out; and we wonder if the present report would fare any better. The truth is, education in India follows certain lines of progress which are peculiar to this country and comparisons in this respect with other countries are generally unsound. When Lord Curzon with his penchant for appointing Commissions appointed one for the Universities, fears were freely expressed that the Viceroy was really aiming a blow at the root of higher education, so that he might get rid of the discontented B. A.,. It was represented that the enhanced school fees would keep out the deserving poor from the schools and colleges, and as it was notorious that rich men's sons were generally failures in education, if Lord Curzon should [illegible]ave his way all educational life would be [illegible] a few short years. But the few [illegible] after the introduction of Lord [illegible]versities Act have achieved a [illegible]gress in education in all its branches [illegible]serving poor throng the class [illegible]er. There has been no falling [illegible] of boys receiving education [illegible]r of educational life becom[illegible]cerned, the Universities [illegible]ad. The result has been [illegible]and more Universities [illegible] It is not inexplicable, though. Frankly, education is given to a young man here to fit him for a career in life. Knowledge for its own sake, and similar other noble sentiments are all meant for platform orations and learned discourses but they seldom come into the scheme of every day life. We suspect it is not so different after all in other countries. The Sadler Commission have fallen into the same error as other commissions. They say that obsession by the idea of passing examinations is another glaring defect in the existing system of university education. It is no doubt a defect and jars aganist our finer idea of education and its value. But we are afraid there is no remedying it. The Commissioners themselves offer an explanation for it. 'A degree has such a value as a qualification for appointment to a post in Government service' they write, 'that under the pressure of their poverty, the great majority of the students forget the wider purposes of university training and concentrate their thoughts upon the certificate it confers. No one who tries to put himself into the position of a struggling Indian student and to realise what he himself would probably do under like conditions, can wonder at the dominating place which examinations take in the student's outlook or at the anxiety with which he looks forward to them.' Small blame to the poor student whose prospects in life depend so much upon his passing an examination. A post in the Government service is not coveted so much now as it was before, not for the reason that the outlook of the student on life and its mission has changed, but for the very matter-of-fact reason that prospects of preferment are not so bright as before, and keen competition has helped in lowering the salary offered for a start. It is only when there comes into existence in India a class, corresponding to the upper middle class and the aristocracy of England, who need not give their boys education for a career in life, the obsession by the idea of passing an examination will wear away. And that educational millennium is not yet. Any new departure in education, therefore, cannot be in regard to the lowering of the value of an examination in the eye of the average student but in so widening its scope that its benefits must be in the reach of the poorest in the land. The widening of the scope must be in all branches of education and there is little use in trying to widen it at one place and allow it to contract in another. We want not only the best education and but also as large a quantity of it as is possible to have. For that, there should be a net work of well-equipped colleges in as many centres as possible. It is no good to have a university like the Benares Hindu University which is merely the monument of somebody's fad and is not of much practical benefit, in proportion to the enormous sums of money it has cost till now. Side by side with higher

learning there must be ample provision for technical, scientific and agricultural training. The departure should be not only in the direction of extending literary education but also in providing training in all those branches of knowledges which would help the people in developing their resources which contain untold wealth for the country.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

By 'Workman.'

Regarding the proposal to form this organisation it may be interesting for the readers of the *Wednesday Review* to refer back to the issue of 22nd November, 1916, wherein the 'Referendum' was discussed which is actully now taking place in the current month, to some 30 odd governments in ratification or rejection of the Treaty Position to date.

This Treaty is in the first place to settle the terms of adjustments due to the war damages, and provide a working *modus operandi* to start business again.

Nations no more than Individuals like to be dragged into other people's quarrels. But if they wish to avoid being so they must take concerted action to establish Power to arbitrate and Rule.

The settlement of the war damage is one thing, but as our once honorable enemy, but now firm friend, Gen. Smutts, points out, it is not all. The business to immediatly follow is one of organisation for work on Co-operative lines.

If we want to know all about the causes that led to the War we cannot do better than refer to the Earl of Cromer's pamphlet of 47 pages entitled "*Germania contra Mundum*" reprinted from the 'Spectator' by Macmillan & Co London in 1915, when people were beginning to balance the advantages of peace against those of war, without understanding what we were fighting for.

The essay points out the Moral Collapse of Germany in respect of external relations and internal conditions; in the relations between the sexes; in German duplicity and brutality; the prostitution of the Press; the irreconcilability of Kaiserism with world progress; and the preliminary Condition essential to the conclusion of Peace.

Earl Cromer came of the Banking interest. He was at one time Financial minister in India. He had been at the head of the Egyptian administration at the time when Egypt had to be emancipated from the thraldom of the many Powers claiming to meddle with the Local Government because it was-like Constantinople-a main artery of world Traffic which could be blocked by any Power trying to interrupt commerce, for its own special purposes.

The lengths to which German duplicity went, and may still go in stirring up sedition and war to get control of the Trade routes is what forced the world into a war aginst Germany, and has called for a break up of the Empire, and its absorption in a Federalised Europe freeing the States for Local self-government. Till this condition is established there can be no permanent Peace and the agitations of Labour Unions and pacifists that interfere with the Military operations for the purpose are simply so much waste of energy that delay the business, on which so much blood and treasure has been lavished.

The whole system of the government of Europe is undergoing Reform. The absence of any Central moderating Power has necessitated Ambassadors and hangers on at every Court, whose functions are sufficiently illustrated wherever German Ministers have been acting; patent examples being afforded by the revelations of American Ambassadors at Constantinopole, Berlin, and elsewhere, before the United States was insulted and driven to join in unravelling European complications.

By the scheme of the 'Leagues of Nations' these Ambassadors will conduct their propaganda under the mandate of their peoples at the Centre of the League; everything will be open and recorded, so that the whole world may know what is going on. While Local governments will be freed from the meddling interference of Foreign diplomatists. World Government will form the function of an independent agency subscribed to by all States. Morality will become the prime consideration in world governmrnt. The Almighty will be represented, not by Individuals claiming Rule by Divine right without responsibility for Just dealing but by a tried expert and scientific working agency able to organise and Administer for the first needs of Humanity, Protection and Co-operative union.

We must not be disconcerted by the sceptics who smile at the propaganda of the League of Nations, or the checks to progress in establishing World Government inevitable in accommodating working arrangements to a new System.

For instance, it has been said China will not sign the Peace Treaty for certain reasons.

This brings us to consider what the functions of the League or Leagues are to be. If they take principally the Moral business, and leave Economic Competitions to the States, there will be no clas[illegible] If a European League of Nations is going to [illegible] an 'Econmic Zollverein' to compete with, say [illegible] United States existing League, than we shall [illegible] other Leagues of the same kind to reckon w[illegible] China will certainly form one, and India anot[illegible] In such case world Government will naturally [illegible] formed out of a 'Central League of Leagues' a[illegible] if it takes Economics under its wing it will form [illegible] Centralised Financial despotism, which is hard[illegible] likely to commend itself to the world.

Meanwhile, the Financial despotism may exi[illegible] without the Leagues or any defined responsibilit[illegible]

as it practically does at present; and if it is to be countered in the interest of competiton and Local Sovereignty, then each State must have its own Fiscal autonomy. All this has to be decided, and must take time to settle.

What we immediately want then is the League to be started and we shall soon see what is likely to come of it. It is easy to discourage effort, but the world wants 'responsibility' fixed for supplying its needs and it cannot be done without a System arranged for it.

This big question is at the bottom of all the agitations going on, that can never be settled by mass movements unaided by the Scientists of all Nations to give them right direction.

The Scientists of every Nation, representing every Caste and occupation, have it in their power to meet and discuss Principles of work and world government. All Governments have it in their power to send Scientists to a centre for agreeing to Principles and laying down a Procedure to give them effect. This is all that is necessary to provide protection and regularise work and business; leaving the general social and moral uplift to a competition of Nations for excellence in the lead.

As regards the inevitable competitions for production, distribution and supply, if there is any wisdom in the foregoing it points to the Federal Principle for great Economic expansion over large areas, leaving the competition in detail to that between individual States; while the individual promoters of enterprise are left free in each State to combine capital and labour in meeting local needs, by competitions in which they undertake the risks of meeting public demand, with their consequent profits or losses. This provides for maximum cheapness of supplies to world consumers.

When large economic combines of Federal States arise, we may next consider 'overseas' competitions. The economic expansion in this case must evidently be regulated by Leagues of Federated States. It is here we approach Daniel's ideal 'Ten Kingdoms' that will ultimately 'Associate to rule the world in God's Name.

CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY,

his remedy has no superior as a cure for colds, ıp and whooping cough.

It has been a favorite with mothers of young ildren for almost forty years.

It not only cures colds and grip, but prevents eir resulting in pneumonia.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy contains no pium or other narcotic and may be given as onfidently to a child as to an adult. For sale by ll Chemists and Storekeepers

REVIEW.

JAPANESE MEMORIES.

Japanese Memories: by Ethel Howard. Authoress of 'Potsdam Princes,

To peruse Miss. Howard's Book in the ease of an arm chair is to enjoy the beauties of Japan without the expense or undue exertion inseparable from all travelling. Those who have made the all round trip of the world *via* Japan will experience a most pleasurable rememberance of the beatiful scenery she describes and the interesting people she met.

On the collapse of the Feudal System when the Clans were abolished and the Feudal Lords rallied round the Mikado as a preliminary step to introducing Western Constitutionalism, one of the principal Damios (Satsuma) with the approval of the Emperor decided to introduce an English lady as resident 'Home Instructor' into the establishment, to take charge of the domestic part of the children's education.

In undertaking the office in 1901 Miss. Howard remained for 7 years in the home of the nobleman, and gives in her book, published by Hutchinson & Co., London, 1918, a most delightful account of her ministrations and experiences gleaned from jottings in her Diary.

In a country whose history and traditions traceable to the most ancient times are ultimately lost in the mists and myths of Sun-worship, it is to be expected that the advent of Western Economic development—in which the Empire must needs take part or run the risk of being submerged —produced a situation of considerable strains and stresses. That these were successfully borne evidently was due to the 'tact' of the Instructor one the one hand, and the Japanese character for sef-control, loyalty, discipline and refinement, making co-operative work with a fixed object smooth and comparatively easy, and the results pretty sure and satisfactory.

Miss Howard was not without great experience for the duties she undertook, and in 'Potsdam Princes' there is evidence of the good work done that met with entire appreciation at the Court of Berlin.

'Japanese Memories, is published in good sized print, the pages profusely illustrated by photographs taken by the late Sir Claude MacDonald, and lightly bound for convenient handling.

To the student of Psychomachy in connection with world Problems of survival and fitness of peoples and their working organisations, the trifles indicating conflict of the Soul with the Body, and the lessons to be learnt therefrom are of the highest importance, and especially to Scientists Statesmen and Teachers of all Cults.

It is not always the people who talk most, or are visibly moved by occurences affording joy or producing sorrow, that feel things most acutely. Miss Howard says that the Japanese self-control makes it most difficult to guess what is passing in the mind of anyone. But the utmost courtesy prevails either in agreement or disagreemennt till the occasion has passed.

Another feature of the Japanese phychology is the ever present modesty in disclaiming self-superiority, while acclaiming the excellencies of the Neighbour! Assuredly these are Divine Arts reflecting glory in the up-bringing in the homes of the people that should be conserved at all hazards.

Japan started as an International factor in World-Power with all the advantages of a new Workshop, furnished with the latest improvements in machinery and methods. Some of these in the West will have to be scrapped to level up efficiency for post war Trade competitions. The lately created New States and others to follow under the aegis of The League of Nations are sure to follow in competing for excellence in the moral as well as material sphere of action.

It appears that the men are particularly guarded in their social relations and conversation, while the women and girls are less so, often indulging in irresponsible remarks in the views they express.

One of the well known problems of humanity is the irresponsibility of the fathers, lately ably treated by a lady writer in the 'Nineteenth Century.' To this factor is traceable the 'reductio ad absardam' in attempting to regulate progress of human developments without including the doctrine of 'the useful limit' of populations.

The women of Japan are fully alive to this proposition but have not yet got the Vote, and so are constrained in their politics to join the annexionists; and the advantages New Zealand would bring them are freely discussed, saying—"our Nation is growing so fast, where can it spread to, if America and Australia won't let us in."

Here we are confronted by a 'World Question' which can only be solved by the responsible action of the League of Nations. This recently constituted autority has already admitted the claims of the Matriarchy to a place in the world's councils with effective voice in its Government.

The universal neglect of 'responsibility'—for unlimited populating the Earth, regardless of decline of quality of the race, sanitary conditions tending to disease, conflict and war inevitable from exceeding the power of food supply, and overcrowding—is not reconcilable with 'true patriotism', love of posterity, or the assumption that the wisdom of Ancestors is really ruling the present generation. It leads to an intolerable world policy of secret spoils and strategems, accentuating the conflict of the soul w[illegible] the imperfect conditions of World-Governme[illegible]

As regards the constructive methods of the world's work and government for the first needs of humanity, if India and the United States are taken as models of Administration it will be found that races, castes, and creeds with innumerable languages and customs' can be mixed up in 'the work' without any conflict at all, if there is a good organisation for the purpose, and Science is allowed to rule.

The claims of Local Government to effective control in Domestic matters, and to have established a Central Authority for world Government, are emphasised by the periodical recurrence of anti-foreign feeling, when the international policies get mixed up. We then see the excesses prompted by indignation of the Soul, and the lamentable absence of self-control of peoples that alone permits of time to remedy mistatkes.

When the League of Nations gets into working order, we may expect great things. An admixture of races possessing various qualifications is not without its advantages for National work. But the overwhelming influx into foreign countries upsets their working economics if preparations for their reception is not previously made. As regards Colonial expansion we have had it demonstrated that it cannot be safely allowed without the sanction of a regularly constituted world-government charged with responsibility to grant or rescind concessions as may appear desirable in all interests. from time to time.

It will be interesting to the public to learn that the talented authoress of 'Japanese Memories' Miss. Howard, (now Mrs. H. A. Bell) is on a visit to India, and at present is residing in the Nilgiris

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TOPICS FROM PERIODICALS.

EDUCATION—ITS MEANING AND FACTORS.

The importance of home as an agency for training the child-mind is not a negligible factor in any comprehensive scheme of education. It supplements the teaching imparted at school and lightens the labour of the teacher for the attainment of the end of education. It improves on the work at school and tends to make education both useful and entertaining. But what is mostly to be regretted is that circumstances are not wanting which often prevent this healthy influence of home life from being fully utilised in the up-bringing of child.

The squalid home, the beastly life led by the family turn the parental roof into a hell and no education is possible in such unhealthy surroundings. The character of the parents is no doubt reflected in the character of the children. But the hard lots of these unfortunates may, to a great extent, be bettered if proper care is taken of their education. The inherent nature may be, partly, if not wholly, modified by the training to which

the children of weak parents may be subjected. Besides, it is not always known whether the character of the parents is inherited or acquired. It is a biological fact that the inherited tendencies are often handed down to children but not the acquired ones. Thus to dub children of characterless parents as potential criminals is, from this point of view, not always safe. They may be the offspring of genuinely good men, though the genuineness of their character may, in their journey through life, be a little marred with a taint which has, biologically speaking no influence on the character of the children,

But the fact that concerns us is not whether the temperament and habits of the family where the child passes his daily life are inherited or acquired. Whatever be the way in which the parental life is vitiated, it is dangerous to leave the children in such unhealthy company. The acquired tendencies of the parents may not, it is true, react so powerfully on the child mind as the inherited ones ; bu it is a fact and a stern fact we should say, that the impressionable nature of the child will be contaminated by both. The plague which has its origin whether in nature or in contact with the plague-stricken, will affect the delicate constitution all the same. The drinking and the merry-making, the beastly life and the squalid habits, the filthy talk and the immodes gestures, daily enacted in the presence of the children cannot but have their effects on minds that are in the process of growing. The plastic nature of the child in whom reason is still dormant and undeveloped and whose whole world is confined to the narrow compass of the school and the home, will be shaped after the models daily presented to it. The light and air in which he leaves will determine his growth. He is naturally be led to think that human life is one long merry-making and that drinking and debauchery are the privileges of maturity which he is to enjoy when the time comes. He cannot turn away from what he always sees practised before his own eyes. It makes an indelible impression and cannot be blotted out do what we can. Just as child born and bred in a delta with the rivers, tributaries, estuaries, and marshes running in and out of the country can scarcely think of people dying for scarcity of water, so the children born and bred in the midst of squalor and immorality can scarcely conceive a well-regulated moral life such as is led by children in happier homes and healthier surroundings. Their plaint nature developes the habits of the elderly people and their moral being gradually merges itself into the vices they see around them.

That homes such as we have tried to describe above are found in every country is a fact. Whether it is due to what the theologians call original sin and philosophers predestination, fate and all that does not concern us here. The fact is that there are homes in which the lives of the parents are not what they should be. The educationists should take note of this broad fact and try to remove the evil influences so that the education of the children may be as unaffected by them as possible.

How to do this, is the question to which our attention need be turned for a moment. To reform the parents and to ask them to begin afresh is the prescription of folly. Habits have taken such deep roots into their system that to eradicate them is difficult, if not impossible. It cannot be done without smashing the whole frame. The victims of habits will move in the channel in which they moved for years. Unless they be superhumanly strong, which very few of them are, they cannot kick at the tyranny of habits. The very sight of the brothel, den or grog-shop or even the dreamy light of the street lamps at midnights will melt their purposes and lead them into the old "familiar" ways. The thin veil of resolve will be torn to pieces by habits and the insinuating face of the spectre will be brought to view inviting the unfortunates to their ruin. The victims may try to wriggle out of the clutches of habits but the unavailing effort will end the grip being made tighter. The poor wretches will become more helpless preys to the tyranny of habits, if they once fail in their attempts to get rid of them.

The scars left by repeated actions on the physiological constitutions cannot be easily wiped out. All that we have done, all that we thought, have their marks indelibly imprinted in cells of the brain and the re-presence of the stimuli will tend to bring about these actions which originated from them. A sweet scent re-smelt years after will vividly bring back the scene, the conditions and even the place in which it was first smelt. The brain cannot forget so soon as many of us are disposed to think. It treasures up in its crevices the memories of past scenes and events, and though we may be led into the belief that we have managed to forget them, a slight stimulus from the world around us, be it a sound, sight, or any thing else, will recall them with the vividness of the originals.

Thus the *carte blanche* state of mind, *i. e.*, the mind in which no scribblings have been made, is possible only in an infant just born. As soon as he is ushered into the world, numerous agencies set themselves at work to leave the traces of their influences on the delicate constitutions of the little being. At first the permanence of the impressions is no better than that of a figure cut on water. But with the growth of the physical frame and the hardening of the brain cells, these

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traces become more and more permanent and ultimately determine the character of the man either as good or bad. To efface them and to begin life afresh presupposes a strength of mind rare in ordinary mortals. Of all men it is a Gautama Budda or a Mahomet who can rise superior to pomp and grandeur, though they were born and bred in the midst of them and begin life anew. But for an ordinary man his future is determined by the habits he has formed. The number of bad parents who can be reformed is very small, if not nil. Of the others who cannot be reformed the number is legion and it is they who sit on the destinies of their children and are placed in charge of the education of the future citizens of the world.

The Educational Review.

EDUCATION IN THE ARMY

In times of great stress and danger the heart of a nation is laid bare. The clogging texture and sinews are torn aside. In the fine words of Kipling :—

> "Comfort, content, delight,
> The Ages slow-bought gain,
> They shrivelled in a night,
> Only ourselves remain
> To face the naked days
> In silent fortitude."

It is then that the stimulus towards great mental and physical effort is made. But if the effort is sustained, necessitating the wrenching from employment and home of masses of men and the enforcement of viewing life from a new standpoint, the glow for the ideal becomes cooler but saner. At the same time the spirit of self-sacrifice begins to be tinged by that of self-betterment. Provided that the calls of comfort, work, amusement do not take up all the time, that of self-betterment will begin to assert, permeate, and then preponderate the other three.

This was very roughly the case in the years 1914–16, when the time was taken up in creating and organising the great military machine. By 1917, however, the Dominion troops had been transported and England was covered in camps and khaki. Under these novel conditions the spirit of "self-betterment" began to assume the form of education, springing up voluntarily in many ways under the strangest circumstances. A shortage of books, lack of suitable accommodation and uncertainty of movements made the work hopeless to all save enthusiasts. But there was no stopping such a spirit when once aroused, and throughout 1917 the demand for education steadily grew. Among the first place where work started may be mentioned the agricultural lectures at Park Royal, the technical and commercial classes at Richborough and St. Anne-on-Sea, and general education at Cannock Chase and Brentwood under the initiative of the Northern Command and 23rd Army Corps. But there was no systematised scheme laid down, no co-ordination between the different commands at home or armies abroad and no personnel authorised for educational purposes. Many an enthusiastic officer, having just started his classes, was ordered elsewhere and his work came to a stand still.

This position led to a preliminary conference in March 1919 at the War Office, at which the Board of Education was represented, to see what could be done to meet the situation. So complex and far-reaching were the problems to be settled that no immediate decision could be made. Meanwhile the Young Men's Chrisitian Association were invited to do what they could to help on the lines of communication in France, and very whole-heartedly they did their best to further the work under the most difficult conditions. General Headquarters, France, now took the matter strongly, pressing for definite authorisation and co-ordination of the different educational schemes being carried on in France and England, and I was sent over to endeavour to obtain sanction with the least delay possible. By August 29th, 1918. all obstacles had been removed, the scheme was drawn up and sanctioned, a branch of the Directorate of Staff Duties created to direct it and on September 24th, 1918, an Army Order was issued officially recognising educational training in the British Army.

The importance of this date cannot be too strongly emphasised. It was much more than an innovation or temporary measure. It was a new departure. It marked the consummation of a long fought for conception based on past efforts, made possible to be put into action by the new machinery it now found ready to hand and above all by the new spirit breathing through the Army. At the same time it gave a new meaning to the term "Education," Hitherto the rank and file had rather regarded education as something savouring of the class-room which had to be tolerated. The average officer had also an inherited disbelief in education on the premise that if a man combined technical skill with discipline and courage it was not his place to reason why but simply to do as he was did by his superior officer and do it well. This Army Order of September 24th laid down, however, that:

(*a*) To a well cultivated mind the assimilation of military training is much easier than to an uncultivated mind.

(*b*) By the mental diversion of lectures and provision of educational facilities the monotony of the ordinary day's work can be broken and the spirit of the men can be noticeably raised.

(*c*) Practical help should be given to the men in whatever work they intended te undertake after the war.

These objects necessitated the forging of a close link between the Army Educational Authorities and the learned and professional bodies at home and in the Dominions. The first sequel to this was the creation in October at the War Office of a Committee meeting weekly on which are represented all the Dominions, the Admirality, the Air Ministry, Y. M. C. A. Universities Committee, and

the Victoria League in order te co-ordinate and use to the fullest extent possible all the lecturing resources of the country. In November came the Special Army Certificate which covered all the ground that the matriculation and similar preliminary examinations to the learned and professional bodies demanded. A great number of these, in addition to the Universities, were successfully approached with a view to accepting the Army Certificate in lieu of their own. This made it possible that an officer or man could not only be prepared for, but alse take an examination assisting him to a civilian occupation while still in the army. The comprehensive range of subjects demanded were grouped with two provisos, namely (1) The groups should be taken as indications rather than prescriptions, (2) Group A comprising arithmetic, English and civics should be obligatory for any student desiring a certificate.

The Empire Review.

SELECTION.

INDIAN CURRENCY AND FINANCE.

A Ratio of Exchange.

It has been our trouble since 1870 to arrive at a parity of exchange, *i.e.*, to find out a ratio at which the Indian rupee may be exchanged at any given time for the English sovereign. What the Government of India has all along been trying to find out is a stable exchange, at the desired level, for the adjustment of her international trade balance. After a severe trial of half a century and more, the Government of India on the advice of the Herschell Committee struck firm to its proposal of a gold standard, and formulated such schemes as would effectively maintain the rate of exchange at 1.*s* 4*d*. There was a period when the rupee was equivalent to two shillings sterling, and the parity between gold and silver was safely maintained—ten rupees and one sovereign always interchanged at par. The intrinsic value of the rupee has always been worth less than the official rate at which it was fixed, and from 17th May the Financial member of the Government of India has fixed its value at 1/8 a rupee. It is impossible for the outside public to know the intricacies of the currency problem. To a close observer of the Indian currency matters, the events since 1893, are nothing more than experiments carried out to suit the changing conditions of currency needed for a vast country like India. But the experiments did not satisfy the varying demads of internal or international commerce.

Various Currency Legislation.

In 1893, the mints were closed to the coinage of silver, and the Government undertook to issue to the public currency notes and silver rupees in exchange for the gold coins and bullions at the rate of 1*s*. 4*d*. the rupee, or 15 rupees to the £ sterling.

The Government at the same time, undertook to accept, in payment of sums due from the public, sovereigns and half-sovereigns at 15 rupees to the £ sterling.

Act of 1896 authorised an increase to 100,000,000 rupees—the amounts which may be invested in securities of the Government of India out of the coin and bullion received for currency notes. In 1891 the amount that could be so held had been fixed at 80,000,000 rupees, so this act released 20,000,000 silver rupees from the currency reserve, and replaced them by a corresponding amount in securities.

In 1897, Government undertook to receive at the reserve treasuries, sovereigns and half-sovereigns, and to issue rupees in exchange at the rate of 15 to the £ sterling.

Acts Nos. 11 and VIII of 1898, authorised the issue of notes in India against gold held in London by the Secretary of State for India as a reserve to secure the payment of such notes.

In 1898-9, the question of currency and finance was referred to a commitee presided over by Sir Henry H. Fowler' M, P., and their investigation resulted in favour of gold being made a legal tender in India. By Act of 1899, sovereigns and half-sovereigns coined at any royal mint were declared legal tender in India at the rate of one sovereign for 15 rupees,

Acts of 1900 and of 1902 gave the Secretary of State power to purchase silver with the gold so deposited, and transmit it to India for coinage and also authorised the issue of notes in India against silver bullion held in England by the Secretary of State as a reserve to secure the payment of such notes.

Abnormal trade conditions in certain years disclosed the necessity for the supply of rupees and the strengthening of the rupee reserve. In times of adverse trade, provision has to be made for the withdrawal from circulation of any redundent rupees, to prevent a superfluity of currency. In order to meet this and other contingencies the "Gold Standard Reserve," was created. Into this reserve it was decided that the net profits on the coinage of the new rupees should be paid and these profits should not be treated as revenue.

Chamberlain Commission.

Such in brief are the different currency legislations brought into effect until the Chamberlain Commission was appointed in 1913 to enquire into the location and management of the general balances of the Government of India, the sale in London of Council Bills and Transfers, the measures taken by the Indian Government and the Secretary of State for India in Council to maintain the exchange value of the rupee. This Commission came to the conclusion that the free circulation of gold in India is unnecessary on the ground that a gold standard has been firmly established without a gold currency, notwithstanding the fact that the Fowler Committee recommended that the British sovereign should be made not only legal tender but should be freely circulated and that the Indian mints should be thrown open to the unrestricted coinage of gold. It is, indeed, regrettable that, after the introduction of a gold standard, which has been proved a success beyond doubt, the question of a free circulation of gold is considered unnecessary by the Chamberlain Commission. Sir James Begbie, however, added a minute of dissent to the commissioners report of the effect that the existence of a large amount of token currency is an unlesirable thing to a country which so largely absorbs gold. This absorption of gold, he observed, is a clear indication of a keen desire on the part of the people for the use of gold

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as a currency and that steps must be taken to discourage the use of a token currency in the face of the established fact that gold is becoming popular for currency purposes.

CIRCULATION OF GOLD.

There was, however, some difficulty in freely circulating gold currency without the existence of a mint, but the European war, which followed a year after the Chamberlain Commission, put a stop to any attempt on the part of Government for establishing a Royal Mint and the Government had to deal with matters of exigency at the moment. In February, last year, on the advice of the Hon'ble Sir William Meyer, the Royal Proclamation establishing a branch of the Royal Mint was made, but the mint began the coinage of sovereigns only on the 16th of August last year.

There is, no doubt, that India has absorbed a large quantity of gold during the past four years, and this will continue as India is at present a great creditor country. For instance, India's trade balance for December, 1917, was fifty-one crores in its favour. For the period ending December, India had to get eleven crores from Japan, ten crores from the United States, five from France, four from Italy, two from China, one from Persia, one from Turkey in Asia, two from South America one from West Indies, nineteen from Egypt, five from Ceylon, and four crores from Australia. Such being her supplying capacity it is no wonder that India has absorbed so much gold being an unlimited tender and one possessing universal currency. MR. GOPAL MENON *in the Economic Journal.*

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4. S. N. BANDO ESQ. ... *Proprietor & General Manager of Messrs. Bando & Co.*
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S. K. DEY & CO. ... ... *Incorporated Accountants & Auditors, Calcutta.*
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* *Minimum Expected Profit* has been calculated to be 40% on the outlay.

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* Printed calculation and details on application.

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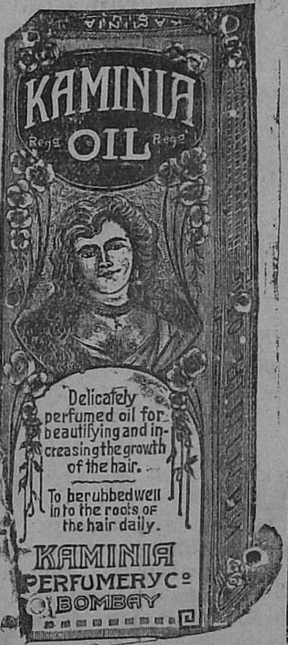

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